

## GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES -----0------

## DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DPNR CONTINUING TO REMOVE DERELICT VESSELS

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning & Natural Resources is excited to notify the public of the continuation of vessel removals in the St. Thomas / St. John District.

Funding for this project is from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program and is intended to assist the territory recover from the 2017 hurricane season.

Target vessels were identified by the Department, but the selected contractors will also be removing marine debris surrounding the vessels. Debris removals surrounding Water Island are nearing completion and contractors will now be working in STEER (the St. Thomas East End Reserves) and Coral Harbor, St. John.

An additional one million dollars was also made available for community-based hurricane debris cleanups. This will allow local organizations to receive funding to remove debris from the 2017 hurricane season from locations with large scale debris such as roofing material and appliances. This funding opportunity is available through August 2022 and recipients must have a registered SAM and DUNS number. The department encourages the collaboration of individuals and organizations to receive these awards.